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LETTER DATED 31 MARCH 1994 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF CROATIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT
OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to enclose herewith a letter of today's date from the Deputy Prime Minister for Humanitarian Affairs, Mr. Ivica Kostović, addressed to you.

I would ask for your kind assistance in distributing the present letter and its annex as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mario NOBILO
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 31 March 1994 from the Deputy Prime Minister
for Humanitarian Affairs of Croatia to the President of
the Security Council

The Government of the Republic of Croatia wishes to express its deepest concern regarding the announced termination of work by 30 April of the Commission of Experts in respect of the Ovčara mass grave. Since the exhumation of the mass grave cannot be completed by that date, my Government insists that the investigation of the grave site continue past the said date, as scheduled previously.

The Croatian Government has repeatedly alerted Member States about the existence of the mass grave in Ovčara, near Vukovar. The grave holds the remains of about 200 Vukovar Hospital patients who were summarily executed by the Yugoslav People's Army and local Serbian proxies on 20 November 1991.

Croatia has offered its full cooperation in this regard, in accordance with resolutions 771 (1992) and 780 (1992). Moreover, my Government has accepted the requests of the local Serb side for a parallel investigation of a location in United Nations Protected Area (UNPA) Sector West and for performing forensic examination of the Ovčara remains in a third country. International law gives Croatia the right to reject the transfer of the remains to any other country.

In this situation, we must recall the agreement that the Commission of Experts obtained in March 1994 from the Serbian side that the Ovčara investigation could proceed. This agreement was reached only because of the international community's firm stance and calls for respect of Security Council resolutions.

Therefore, my Government respectfully requests that the States members of the Security Council consider all possible means in giving unqualified support for the work of Commission of Experts on the Ovčara case specifically and on all violations of international humanitarian law on the territory of the former Yugoslavia. This support is of critical importance not only to my Government, but also to public opinion world wide.

(Signed) Ivica KOSTOVIĆ
Deputy Prime Minister
for Humanitarian Affairs